Celebrating the Life of

Mary Elaine Billups

Sunrise: April 14, 1945 – *Sunset:* October 1, 2021

Service Held

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.

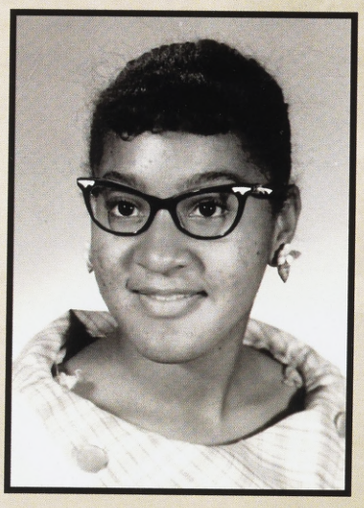
McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ

1443 Fred Jackson Way, Richmond, CA 94804

Reverend Dr. C.J. Stewart, Officiating

Obituary

THE LORD IS GOOD. A STRONGHOLD IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE; AND HE KNOWETH THEM THAT TRUST IN HIM
NAHUM 1:7



Mary Elaine Billups was born in Richmond, California on April 14, 1945 to the late Geraldine and Odesser Smith Sr. She departed this life on October 1, 2021 in Walnut Creek, CA surrounded by loved ones.

Mary or Laine as she was called by family, was an exceptional student. She attended Peres Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High and graduated from Richmond High in 1963 with honors. She was very active in high school activities that include being a member of the Student Representatives Counsel and violinist in the school band. Mary continued her education graduating with a BS in Criminology from the University of California, Berkeley. She later returned to college to complete her MS in Employment Studies from San Francisco State. She also received her certification from Rutgers University to teach in the workforce profession.

Mary accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ by the late Bishop G.W. McGlothen. Mary, an accomplished musician began taking music lessons at the age of 5. She was involved with church choirs and gospel groups since the age of 10. At the young age of 11, she was playing for her home church choir. She later played for First AME Church, Richmond, where her parents attended. She was the musician for a local group, The Watkins Singers of Richmond, and an active member of Richmond Local 10 Choir. Her gift would later lead her to Rock of Ages Baptist Church to play for their choirs. It was here that she met the love of her life, Richard Billups. Mary and Richard were married December 31, 1967 and to this union they welcomed a son, Anthony. They my have only had one biological child, but Mary and Richard were extended parents to many teens who spent time with them in their home being mentored and encouraged.

Mary joined St. Luke MBC and served as the Minister of Music for the voices of St. Luke for more than 44 years. She wrote and produced several anointed plays for the choir. She was always searching for ways to be a blessing to the body. She was also active in the Vacation Bible School and loved taking her grandson each summer. For 20 years she served as chairwoman of the church's Wilbur F. Crayton Scholarship Committee, which awards scholarships to deserving students who are active members of local churches.

Mary worked for 34 years with the State Employment Service of EDD. She had a very successful tenure working with EDD for 34 years accumulating many promotions and numerous awards. Her personal goal to all she mentored was "always be found doing your very best."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Geraldine and Odesser Smith, Sr. and brother, Odesser Clay Smith, Jr.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband, Richard A. Billups (Richmond, CA); son Anthony (Latisha) Billups (Richmond, CA); adopted daughter and son, Ronice (Aubrey)Goodlow-White (Richmond, CA); grandchildren: Micah A. Billups, Taylor Goodlow, Davian Goodlow; siblings: Barbara Bivens (Vallejo, CA) Judith Darden (Richmond, CA); dear friend Lavada Towns (Richmond, CA) Emma Lethridge (Richmond, CA); and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins', godchildren, and friends.

Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL ..... CLERGY AND FAMILY

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ..... Psas 23 portions ..... SAM VANHOOK

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ..... I Thes 4:13 ..... GLEN WYATT

PRAYER OF COMFORT ..... REV. ULIS REDIC

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... My Soul Has Been Anchored ..... DION WILLIAMS

RESOLUTIONS ..... DR. VELMA BAGBY

FRANCINA DAVIS

CARDS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ..... ARINEL GREEN

READING OF OBITUARY ..... CATHERINE VANHOOK

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... Medley ..... SHELIA MORRIS

ST. LUKE FAMILY REFLECTIONS ..... CHOIR, ANGELA JOHNSON

WILBUR F. CAYTON SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, BARBARA BURGES

EXPRESSIONS ..... James Harris, Nate Bates, R. Fisher, Sam, Flora J. Betty Stewart, Martha ..... FAMILY AND FRIENDS (2 MINUTES)

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... Medley - Grateful ..... THE VOICES OF ST. LUKE

EULOGY WORDS OF COMFORT ..... 1 Cor 9 - May the Work ..... REV. DR. CHARLES J. STEWART

PARTING VIEW ..... That I have done speak for me ..... FOUCHE'S HUDSON FUNERAL HOME STAFF

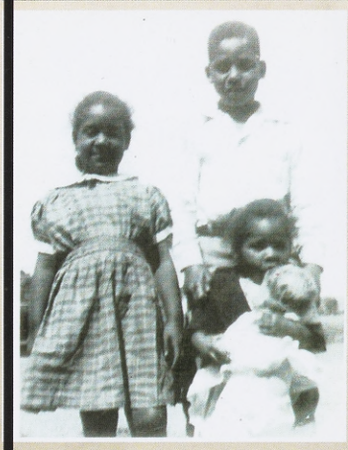
(SPECIAL SELECTION TOM HANSBROUGH AND SINGERS)

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL PARK
4100 HILLTOP DRIVE, EL SOBRANTE, CA 94803

REPAST
MOOSE LODGE
4660 APPIAN WAY, EL SOBRANTE, CA 94803

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8



BAY AREA

AND CALIFORNIA

Local performers make CD to help Richmond kids

JOHNSON

From Page B1

it's not that surprising to find this level of talent," he said. That said, he was quite impressed with Claiborne.

"Melinda ain't a professional singer, but she certainly has a professional voice," he said.

Claiborne's voice captures and conveys the struggle for righteousness amid a sea of trouble, the very essence of gospel music. Her bouncing refrains lift the refrain on "I Won't Complain."

Claiborne isn't alone. Consequence, a local choral group, performs a searing rendition of "Come on in This House and Praise the Lord."

Then there's Cynthia Harris, an administrative minister at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond. It wasn't so long ago that Harris was a vocalist with Clarence Clemmins' E Street Band. Harris sings the lead on "Ordinary People" and "Near the Cross," and, yeah, she's really good.

The project turned out so well that Warwick has sent copies of the CD to local retailers and even Starbucks, which promotes, sells and plays the music of local artists.

The CDs go for $17.95 a pop, and all proceeds benefit the city's summer youth employment program. All told, the group hopes to raise $750,000 through corporate sponsorship, donations and CD sales to provide six-week jobs to as many as 350 teenagers who will earn $5,000.

The idea of a community finding the power to lift itself up is powerful, especially in Richmond — a city that's seen more than its share of crime and economic struggles in recent years.

"I saw it as a chance for me to help the people in my community, and that's exactly what these folks are doing," Organ said. "This is a community coming together for a project that is not self-gratifying."

The project seems to be working so far. Since the CDs were delivered less than two weeks ago, more than 500 copies have been sold. For Billups, who retired in December after 37 years, the project was a great note to go out on.

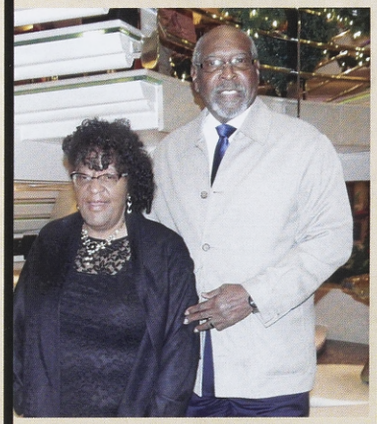
"Projects like this show that it's not about how much money you have, but the work you do with it and the lives you touch," she said. Amen, sister.

Chuk Johnson's column appears on Mondays and Fridays. E-mail him at chukmaxx@sfchronicle.com.

City of Richmond employees gospel singers give voice to the event.

The Mary Billups

One-Stop Career Business Center

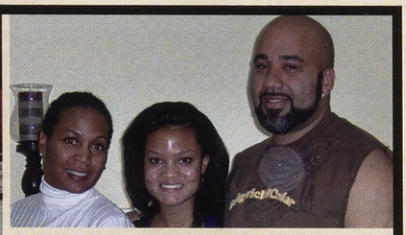


GOD'S LITTLE ACRE
BILLUPS PKWY

The Color Purple
The Musical about Love

EDD Reunion and SERVI
GONE but NOT FORGOTTEN
1950-1989
Celebrat
NG EMPLOYERS & JOB SEEKERS

MARY BILLUPS
2010 "Women of Valor"
CORENE BAYLESS
2010 "Woman of Valor"



Active Pallbearers

ANDREA SMITH
LEVARDIS SMITH
AUBREY WHITE
MARK SMITH
ERNEST ROBINSON
J W OWENS

Honorary Pallbearers

LOVELL HALE
J C FARR
JOE HERNANDEZ
JAMES HARRIS
SAM VANHOOK
LEN SIMMONS
DAVID ROWELL
ANDY AUTO BODY

A Virtuous Woman

A wife of noble character who can find. She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We the family of Mary Elaine Billups are eternally grateful and thankful for your prayers, cards and all acts of love and compassion extended to us during our time of loss. We ask for your continuing prayers.

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO THE CARE OF
FOUCHE'S HUDSON FUNERAL HOME
3665 TELEGRAPH AVE,, OAKLAND, CA 94609
(510) 654-8558

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